

This bill in no way prohibits a buyer from purchasing a firearm unless it is sold without a child safety lock. A child safety lock will be included in the firearm when it is purchased.

Knowing that many citizens are concerned about gun laws, because they believe these laws may affect their constitutional rights, I would like to make it clear that this bill does not interfere with a citizen's constitutional rights. It only gives our children the right to life without the fear of another Jonesboro, Edinboro, Fayetteville, Springfield, Richmond, West Paducah and Littleton.

We must create a safe environment in our Nation's urban, rural and suburban areas for our children. We must avoid the continued senseless bloodshed and loss of life of children around this country. We must be proactive, Mr. Speaker, and address this problem. This bill does just that. It protects our children and it protects their future.

COPS PROGRAM GOOD FOR COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Police Week. Today I was at the White House Rose Garden for the unveiling of the COPS program, which calls for an additional 50,000 police officers. I want to thank President Clinton for his efforts in bringing community-oriented policing services to towns and cities all across America.

I have served as both a city police officer and a Michigan State police trooper for approximately 12 years. When I was elected to the Michigan Legislature in 1988, I authored legislation to bring community policing to Michigan. I have always advocated bringing police officers and citizens together, coming together, working together to solve neighborhood and community problems.

As a police officer and as a Congressman of an extremely rural district, I would like to thank the President for the 195 police officers the COPS program has brought to my northern Michigan communities, 28 counties in the northern part of Michigan.

The COPS program's harshest critics are the people it searches, the chiefs of police and the local sheriffs. Yet no matter what their party affiliation, whether they be Democrat, Republican or Independent, they have all praised the ease of handling of the COPS program and the one-page grant application.

Nationally, we are witnessing a dramatic decrease in crime rates. More cops on the street, coupled with a booming economy, helps to decrease crime. Yet, we are haunted by recent events of unforeseen violence in our

Nation's schools. I hope and pray that today's COPS initiative becomes a commitment not just for our Nation but also for our schools through the School Resource Officer Program, COPS in schools.

COPS working in partnership with our teachers and our students to solve crime can stop the unprecedented violence. COPS and School Resource Officers cannot be a 1-year program, a 3-year program, or a 5-year program. It must be a commitment of our generation to save future generations. It is with this COPS initiative and a commitment to the School Resource Officer program that we can duplicate the success of the COPS program to reduce violence in schools.

I have brought my years of service as a police officer to the Congress. One of the things I did when I first got here was to form a Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus to start a dialogue between Members of Congress and police officers. President Bill Clinton has always joined in our dialogue, and we appreciate this administration's continued commitment to law enforcement.

Together, the Law Enforcement Caucus and this administration have looked out for the health and safety of law enforcement officers throughout the Nation. Together, we have passed legislation to provide education benefits for dependents of slain and disabled police officers, appropriated grant monies so local law enforcement officers can purchase bulletproof vests, waived the Federal income tax on pension benefits of slain officers, and of course initiated the School Resource Officer program.

So I would like to thank the President not just for caring about reducing the Nation's crime rate but helping to take care of America's crime fighters.

But no matter how much we do, no matter how much we try to ensure the safety of the men and women in law enforcement, we know that death is possible and it strikes suddenly and swiftly, without warning.

Approximately 1 year ago today I was on this floor arguing for more bulletproof vests for more law enforcement officers when Sergeant Dennis Finch lay on the front porch dying, shot by a deranged gunman, who kept other fellow officers and paramedics from going to Dennis' aid. Sergeant Dennis Finch of the Traverse City Police Department died the next day.

Tomorrow night I will join Dennis' family, fellow officers, and other officers from all around this Nation at the Police Memorial in Judiciary Square here in Washington, D.C. at a candlelight vigil to honor Dennis and 157 other fallen law enforcement officers who were killed in 1998.

Every other day a law enforcement officer in the United States is killed. So as I advocate for the new COPS pro-

gram, as I advocate for greater benefits for fallen officers and their families, and greater protections for all law enforcement officers, I am pleased to say that as a cop I know what it means to have a good partner: That is one you can count on. And we in law enforcement have no better partners in our fight against crime than President Bill Clinton and Vice President AL GORE and the Democratic party.

I salute all current and past law enforcement officers and our fallen officers. May God grant them and their families peace.

SUCCESS OF UNITED STATES SOFTWARE INDUSTRY IS JEOPARDIZED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYUN of Kansas). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I came to the podium today to talk about technology, but hearing the eloquent statement by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), I want to associate myself with his comments, particularly since I lost my cousin, Mark Brown, of the Kent County Sheriff Department, who died in the line of duty several weeks ago.

I just want to tell my colleagues there are many things we can do for our law enforcement officers, but I want to say that it has made me a person who stops when I can and thank our uniformed police officers for their duty of getting up every day and wondering if they are coming home, and I know other Members feel as I do.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address some good news in our economy, and that is the incredible success of our software industry. None of us can turn around without reading of a new brilliantly creative and dynamic invention by the software industry. There is plentiful good news in this segment of our economy. But there are two things that this Congress needs to help this industry with that I would like to address tonight.

The first thing is that the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Executive needs to be more aggressive to make sure that our trading partners across the seas stop stealing software from American software workers. We have a lot more software workers than we used to. In 1990, we had 290,000 employees in software.

□ 1915

We now have over 60,000 Americans involved in developing software, and they put their hard-earned efforts and their creative genius in it. And then all too frequently, people across the waters, our good trading partners, steal that software that they have designed with their hard-earned labor. And we

are making an effort, the administration, and I laud the administration for their efforts to try to get some of our trading partners to agree to stop those practices, to have more vigorous enforcement of copyright protections and intellectual property rights.

But now that we have just started to get some of those agreements on paper, it is time to get them in reality. And during the upcoming WTO talks in Seattle this fall, we are encouraging the administration and all of our trading partners to join us in making sure that we shine a spotlight on some of those agreements to find out if those agreements indeed are being honored, to help our trading partners recognize that, while we go forward on trade, we are going to go forward on protecting intellectual property; that, while we have got agreements in writing, now we have to have them in reality. Obviously, we hope, with our growing relationship with China, we will have this discussion.

Recently, I spoke with the ambassador from China, was in the audience, and reminded the ambassador that we are happy about the progress that we have made in our agreements with China in the hopes that they would help stop some of this piracy of intellectual property rights but that we wanted to use our future discussions to make sure that we help China move forward in reality to prevent the piracy that has gone on.

And I do not mean to single out China. This has been a difficult situation in many parts of the world. I simply think that we have got to be more aggressive in asserting our rights.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about what I think is one of the saddest failures of American public policy recently, and that is we have been abject failures at training people to fill high-tech and software jobs.

We have had tens of thousands of jobs go begging every year, go begging, because we have not educated our youth to take these jobs in a very high-paying industry, a very dynamic industry. And we ought to, in this Congress, look for every single way we can to develop the opportunities for our children so that they can take the jobs in the high-tech industry and, in fact, we do not have to go offshore, where we have been forced to go.

It is time for us to recognize our responsibility to our children and to our economic futures to make every child have access to training so that they can go into the software industry and the high-tech industry.

One little project we are working on in my district in the north Seattle area is with Edmunds and Shoreline Community College to try to build a tech center, the Puget Sound Technology Center, to try to get thousands of kids who now want access to this training to give them that opportunity to help fill these spots.

Mr. Speaker, these are the two things. This Congress can help truly the most dynamic industry perhaps in human history since the invention of the wheel, stop piracy of the hard-earned work of our software workers and let us make sure that our children can get into the industry.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH—MAY 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend my colleague, Congresswoman EVA CLAYTON, for addressing a major concern in our society—teen pregnancy. The care and protection of children is, first and foremost, a family concern. When teenagers have babies, the consequences are felt throughout society.

Children born to teenage parents are more likely to be of low birth-weight and to suffer from inadequate health care, more likely to leave high school without graduating, and more likely to be poor, thus perpetuating a cycle of unrealized potential.

Despite a 20-year low in the teen pregnancy rate and an impressive decline in the teen birth rate, the United States still has the highest teen pregnancy rate of any industrialized country. About 40 percent of American women become pregnant before the age of 20.

The result is about 1 million pregnancies each year among women ages 15 to 19. About half of those pregnancies end in births, often to young women and men who lack the financial and emotional resources to care adequately for their children.

When parents are financially and emotionally unprepared, their children are more likely to be cared for either by other relatives, such as grandparents, or by taxpayers through public assistance.

We must have a goal that requires an unwavering commitment and aggressive action by both communities and families. It must be recognized that there is no magic solution to reducing teen pregnancy, childbearing, and STD rates, nor will a single intervention work for all teens. Because the decline from 1990 to 1996 is attributable to many factors, it is essential to continue and expand a range of programs that embrace many strategies. Experts agree that holistic, comprehensive, and flexible approaches are needed.

Taken as a whole, society has to view the dangerous consequences of teenage sexual activity as an ongoing challenge. We should want to protect our teenagers from the risk of premature parenthood and from disease, and we should want to protect the children they would struggle to raise. If we are serious about breaking the cycles of poverty and underachievement that, too often, result from kids having kids, then we must not be satisfied with the recent downward trends.

We must expand our efforts to help those teens who are at the greatest risk. Rather than becoming complacent because of the recent downturn, we must be more aggressive in implementing the positive lessons that contributed to the downswing and redouble our ef-

forts to cut the teen birth rate even more significantly.

We must begin to speak up and out to our young ladies about sex at an early age to prevent teen pregnancy. I thank my dear colleague for her leadership.

TECHNOLOGY ISSUES FACING CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to talk a little bit tonight on technology issues.

But first I would like to commend the preceding speakers, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), for their important remarks about our police officers.

I was pleased to be with the President earlier today when he announced that, as of today, we are announcing grants for the officers that will bring the total up to 100,000 officers on the streets, in the neighborhoods, in the schools as part of the community-oriented policing program. I think it has been a great success, and today is a fine day to pay tribute to our police officers.

I would now like to turn to the subject of technology in our society and science and research and development. I am a scientist and a teacher, and before coming to Congress, I was Assistant Director at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. I hold a patent for a solar energy device.

I have been using computers since the days that they were room-sized mainframes; and that is why I feel strongly about the role that technology plays in our lives, whether in education, in medicine, or in trade; and that is why I have spent a good deal of time in my first 4 months here on the job in Washington working on science and technology issues.

We live in a world where investment capital races around the globe at the touch of a key; where cars that we drive have more computing power than an Apollo spacecraft; where, in our economy today, there are no unskilled jobs.

Technology advances our society and opens up exciting new worlds of opportunity. Over the past century, Federal investments in computing, information, communications, and other sorts of R&D have yielded spectacular returns. Yet our Nation is underinvesting in long-term, fundamental research.

The fact is that, on the whole, Federal support and corporate support for research in technology and in science is seriously underfunded. Research programs intended to maintain the flow of new ideas and to train the next generation of researchers are funded at only a fraction of what is needed, turning away hundreds of excellent proposals.